

*Oral Questions***IMMIGRATION**

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, this gets progressively more pathetic. The Hon. Member was in Washington last week with his senior colleague, the Hon. Member for Saint-Henri—Westmount, in regard to this matter. He knows full well that there is an ongoing operation, occurring every day—

**Mr. Axworthy:** So you're interfering in their affairs then? You said you weren't.

**Mr. Mulroney:** If my hon. friend believes that the ongoing operations of the Canadian Embassy in Washington are an interference in the affairs of the United States or the Congress, then he has placed a brand new interpretation on constitutional developments in the United States.

## SOFTWOOD LUMBER EXPORTS

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my question is also directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. I think he is aware that 72 per cent of Canada's exported softwood lumber goes to the United States where we now hold 35 per cent of the market, and that we have had unhindered free trade in softwood lumber with the United States for the past 40 years. I would like to learn from the Prime Minister whether or not the Government of the United States has requested any specific concessions from Canada on softwood lumber exports in the past two weeks.

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** No, Mr. Speaker.

• (1430)

## CANADIAN POSITION

**Mr. Jim Fulton (Skeena):** Mr. Speaker, my supplementary question is directed to the Right Hon. Prime Minister. Will he give the House his word that no concessions have been given, or will be given on the issue of softwood lumber, to the United States?

**Right Hon. Brian Mulroney (Prime Minister):** Mr. Speaker, the gentleman speaks for a Party which is opposed to freer trade with the United States. He is now trying to wrest NDP assurances. They cannot have it both ways. I know the NDP try it every day. They cannot have it both ways; they are opposed to freer trade with the United States.

**Some Hon. Members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr. Mulroney:** I have indicated in Washington, and in other circumstances, that we will not allow the softwood lumber issue to be made a bargaining chip in these discussions, and that has been made clear.

## RUSSIAN ARMY DEFACTORS IN AFGHANISTAN

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, my question is directed to the Secretary of State for External Affairs. He has just finished telling the House that he did everything in his power to expedite the arrival in Canada of the six Russian refugees from Afghanistan. If he has done everything in his power, why is it that last year Canada only accepted as immigrants forty of the four million refugees who have been victimized by the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, the Hon. Member with a developing adeptness is changing the subject. The question asked by her colleague earlier had to do with six individuals who are special cases. I think the special nature of those cases is known to the Hon. Member. We have been trying, using literally every instrument available to us, to get in contact with them. If a new way has been found to get in contact with them, certainly I would welcome, as would my colleague Ministers, the cooperation of those Canadians who claim that contact, to see if there is some way in which we can bring those people to freedom.

## IMMIGRATION FROM SOVIET BLOC COUNTRIES

**Ms. Sheila Copps (Hamilton East):** Mr. Speaker, I find it difficult to believe that two reporters from the Kingston *Whig-Standard* succeeded in making contact last week when the Canadian Government could not. The Government of Pakistan is prepared to co-operate. The Afghan rebels are prepared to co-operate. The only people who are not co-operating are the Canadian Government and the Department of External Affairs. Since the Government has taken power, there has been a reduction in immigration to Canada from every Soviet dominated and East Bloc country. Why has there been this reduction, when he talks about his Government's co-operation?

**Right Hon. Joe Clark (Secretary of State for External Affairs):** Mr. Speaker, I am informed by the Minister responsible for immigration that the Hon. Member is wrong as usual and that the levels of immigration are up. With regard to her earlier preamble, she has created facts on the floor of the House of Commons which are not the case. What is germane here is whether or not there has now been discovered by some Canadians an instrument which will allow us to bring those six individuals to freedom. We have not found one yet. If they have found one, we are anxious to work with them, and I invite them to join in consultation with us.